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PART I.

IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT ORDERS.

CHIEF SECRETARIAT.

Administrative Changes in the Public Works and Electrical Departments.

READ—

1. G. O. No. P. W. 373-426—E. 1974-2027, dated the 9th September 1922 sanctioning the reorganisation of the Public Works Department and directing the bifurcation of the Department into two branches, *viz.*, Roads and Buildings and Irrigation, each under a separate Chief Engineer.

2. G. O. No. 3767-3818—C. B. 151-22-2, dated 21st December 1922, directing that the Chief Engineer for Roads and Buildings and the Chief Engineer for Irrigation shall be *ex-officio* Secretaries to Government, Public Works Department, in their respective branches, and that the Chief Electrical Engineer shall be *ex-officio* Secretary to Government in the Electrical Department.

3. G. O. No. 2532-3—C. B. 156-23-2, dated 4th February 1924, permitting Mr. H. D. [illegible], Chief Engineer for Roads and Buildings to retire from service on the expiry of the combined leave granted to him in Government Notification No. 2529—C. B. 156-23-1, dated 4th February 1924.

ORDER No. 2534-85-AC. B. 157-23-1, DATED 7TH FEBRUARY 1924.

Until September 1922, when the reorganisation scheme sanctioned in the Government Order read above was brought into operation, the chief administrative officer of the Public Works Department was also Secretary to Government in that Department. On the creation of the Electrical Department, the Secretariat duties relating to that Department were also assigned to the P. W. D. Secretary. Under the reorganization scheme of the Public Works Department referred to above, two Chief Engineers were appointed, one for Irrigation and the other for Roads and Buildings, and they were both made *ex-officio* Secretaries to Government, chiefly on grounds of economy. A separate officer was appointed temporarily for the charge of the Krishnarajasagara Works with the Secretariat and other duties relating to the charge and the negotiations with the Government of Madras. As a consequence of these arrangements, the Chief Electrical Engineer was also made Secretary to Government in the Electrical Department as the appointment of a joint Secretary for both Public Works Department and Electric Department was abolished.

The experience of the period of more than one year, during which this arrangement has continued, has shown that the combination of the Secretariat functions of a department with the headship of the Department is not a very convenient arrangement. With the abolition of the posts of Superintending Engineers a great deal of additional touring and inspection work has fallen on the two Chief Engineers of the Public Works Department, but while the increased touring seriously affects their Secretariat duties, the latter often necessitate their remaining at headquarters thereby interfering with their legitimate supervision and inspection work. Moreover, as the bifurcation between the Irrigation branch and the Roads and Buildings branch has not been carried out in the executive and subordinate grades, the establishment is under dual control, while questions relating to the establishment have been dealt with under departmental instructions by the Chief Engineer and Secretary, Irrigation Branch. The whole Department therefore looks to one Chief Engineer for establishment questions.

The grant of combined leave preparatory to retirement to Mr. Rice, Chief Engineer for Roads and Buildings has afforded an opportunity to examine the situation and at the same time to effect further reduction in expenditure in the Public Works Department. On a careful consideration of the whole question, Government direct that from the date of retirement of Mr. Rice, the separate appointment of Chief Engineer for Roads and Buildings be abolished. With effect from the date on which Mr. Rice proceeds on leave, Mr. John Bhore will be appointed Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, and be placed in charge of Roads and Buildings as well as of Irrigation. The Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, will be purely an Administrative Officer with no Secretariat functions. These functions including those relating to the Electrical Department will be assigned to a separate Secretary to Government, Public Works Department. Mr. K. R. Seshachar, who has been posted as Special Officer, Krishnarajasagara works, will be appointed Secretary to Government, Public Works Department, including the Electrical Department as well as Krishnarajasagara, of which he will continue to be in charge as the Chief Administrative Officer as a special case, in order to avoid the creation of a separate officer to supervise the construction work and the development schemes under the Krishnarajasagara, which on account of its special character cannot be added on to the ordinary departmental administration of Public works at least for some years to come. The pay of Mr. Seshachar as Special Officer, Krishnarajasagara works and Secretary to Government, will be fixed at Rs. 1,250-50-1,400 and Mr. Seshachar will as a special case, be given the maximum pay in this grade, *viz.*, Rs. 1,400. These arrangements will result in the reduction of the number of superior Administrative Officers in the Public Works Department by one and a saving of Rs. 1,250 per month.

Detailed proposals for the distribution of office establishment including gazetted, clerical and menial staff of the two Chief Engineers between the Chief Engineer and the Public Works Secretary should be submitted without delay for the orders of Government by the Chief Engineer for Irrigation in consultation with Chief Engineer for Roads and Buildings and Mr. Seshachar. The present establishment of the Electrical Secretariat will also be transferred to the Public Works Secretary.

The schedule of powers to be exercised by the Chief Electrical Engineer and the Chief Engineer, Public Works Department, issued in Government Orders No. E. D. S. 128-32, dated the 8th February 1923, and No. P. W. 551-73-E. 0815-37, dated the 12th March 1928, respectively should be revised so that both these officers may be given greater powers over their establishments and other routine matters which may be now delegated to them. Separate orders will issue on this after consulting the Chief Electrical Engineer, the Chief Engineer and the Financial Secretary.

K. MATTHAN,
Chief Secretary to Government.

REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Pith.

READ—

1. Petition dated 21st January 1923 from Nagappa, Sivappa and other Gudigars of Sagar town to the Dewan praying that the sale by auction of pith in the Kumsi Sub-Taluk may be stopped and that they may be permitted to take the article free as the persons following the handicraft are poor and cannot afford to pay the fee and the article fetches only a nominal income to Government.

2. Letter No. C. 1024—L. B. dated 12th—15th September 1923, from the Deputy Commissioner and President, District Board, Shimoga District recommending the prayer of the Gudigars for sympathetic consideration in view of the fact that the gudigars are poor and that the grant of the concession will be some encouragement to them, while the revenue that the Government may have to forego will be very little.